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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/926,689	12/03/2001	Kengo Miyoshi	216792US2PCT	9421

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

VU, NGOC K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/15/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 03/15/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/926,689

Applicant(s)

MIYOSHI ET AL.

Examiner

Ngoc K. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-6, 8-10, 12 and 15-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 7, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/3/2001, 1/17/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. The embodiments associated with the figures are distinct and required separate searches as indicated in the previous action. Therefore, the Election of Species Requirement dated 12/5/2006 is maintained.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 13 and 14 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim (claim 11). See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.
3. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: it appears that the term "a data signal" referring to the data signal that is previously defined in claim 1. Please change the term "a data signal" to "the data signal". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
2. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Regarding claim 13, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 7, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Terry et al. (U.S. 5,499,047 A).

Regarding claim 1, Terry discloses a data transmission system (see figure 1) having a local network to which plural terminal equipments (22, 36) are connected and whose data transmission is carried out by using a high-frequency modulation signal and a transmission line to which the local network is connected, comprising: a demodulator (60) which demodulates upstream high-frequency modulation signal transmitted toward the transmission line side into a data signal is installed at a node of said local network and said transmission line. (See figure 4).

Regarding claim 2, Terry further teaches a modulator (56) which modulates the data signal demodulated by said demodulator into upstream high-frequency modulation signal at said node of said local network. (See figure 4).

Regarding claim 7, Terry further teaches an amplifier (50) which is connected in parallel to a connection circuit of said demodulator and said modulator by a directional coupler/distributor (58 or 46) of an upstream side and a directional couple/distributor (46 or 58) of a downstream side and which amplifies and outputs said downstream signal toward said local network. (See figure 4).

Regarding claim 13, Terry discloses that the transmission line is a CATV transmission line (e.g., coaxial cables) and said local network is a community TV network adjusted in a

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predetermined area (houses) in which plural numbers of terminal equipments are connected (see figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terry et al. (U.S. 5,499,047 A) in view of Shioda et al. (US 6,484,318 B1).

Regarding claim 14, Terry discloses the CATV system having bidirectional transmission capability for transmitting/receiving downstream signal and upstream signal (see figures 1-4). Terry does not explicitly disclose CATV network transmission line connecting to Internet, transmitting a demodulated upstream signal to Internet, and transmitting a modulated downstream signal received from Internet to the transmission line. However, Shioda teaches modulating downstream data obtained from Internet and transmitting that downstream data to terminal device via CATV net 40. Shioda also teaches demodulating upstream data from the terminal device and transmitting that upstream data to Internet via CATV net 40. See col. 6, lines 20-36; col. 14, lines 59-62; col. 15, lines 60-63; and figure 1. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Terry by including CATV system connecting to Internet, transmitting a demodulated upstream signal to Internet, and transmitting a modulated downstream signal received from Internet to terminal device via CATV system as taught by Shioda in order to effectively provide Internet service/data via the existing CATV system.

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Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 11 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yoshida et al. (US 6,973,670 B1) teaches an in-building CATV system for frequency converting an upward signal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc K. Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-7306. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



NGOC K. VU

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PRIMARY EXAMINER
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March 12, 2007